

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 93

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 19

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to Scottish Tartan Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State April 6, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 93, McClintock. Scottish Tartan Day.

This measure would declare April 6, 1998, and every April 6th thereafter as Scottish Tartan Day.

WHEREAS, In 1641, the earliest recorded attempt to count and categorize the inhabitants of the English colonies in America revealed over 4,000 individuals of Scottish descent; and

WHEREAS, After the British Crown defeated Bonnie Prince Charlie's Scottish Highlanders at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, a second large wave of Scottish people arrived in the colonies, many to escape the widespread oppression suffered in their homeland; and

WHEREAS, The oppression of the Scots included the Dress Act of August 1747, suppressive legislation that forbade the wearing of kilts, playing the bagpipe, or even displaying a swatch of tartan; and the breaking of this law called for six months in jail on the first offense and for the second offense, deportation to the colonies in America or Australia for seven years of indentured labor; and

WHEREAS, Although the Act of Repeal of 1782 permitted the Scots to wear tartan again, it was not until 1822, when King George IV became impressed with the poetry of Sir Walter Scott, that the display of the traditional Scottish regalia in public was fully accepted; and

WHEREAS, Between 1829 and 1930, more than 700,000 Scottish people immigrated to the United States and made it their new home, their descendents spreading across our great country so that now 1.2 million are living in California alone, more than in any other state, drawn by the glory of our mountains and meadows, our lakes and our streams, our valleys and coastal plains, reminiscent perhaps of the rugged beauty of their homeland; and

WHEREAS, Principal Scottish Highland Games are held each year in California in Pleasanton, Costa Mesa, San Diego, Fresno, and many other venues throughout the state, involving over 100 Scottish Clans and Societies, with a total audience in excess of 250,000, demonstrating widespread support and enthusiasm surrounding Scottish traditions and celebrations; and

WHEREAS, Individuals of Scottish birth and descent have distinguished themselves throughout history with their inventions, discoveries, and accomplishments, including Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone; John Logie Baird, inventor of the television; Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin; James Hutton, the father of modern geology; John Paul Jones, early hero of the United States Navy; and John Muir, whose efforts enabled the nation the opportunity of appreciating the grandeur of Yosemite National Park; and

WHEREAS, The list of great and successful Scottish people and the contributions they have made to the world is so vast and impressive that Voltaire was prompted to write that “We look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilization”; and

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Arbroath, in 1320, set forth the Scottish peoples’ commitment for freedom 400 years before our own Declaration of Independence, and those words still stir the hearts of people who would live free: “For so long as one hundred of us remain alive we will yield in no least way to the domination of the English. We fight not for glory nor for wealth nor for honors, but only and alone for freedom, which no good man surrenders but with his life”; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress is on the threshold of declaring April 6 to be National Tartan Day, and California can seize the high ground with its sister state of Colorado and eastward roll a wave of confirmation; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that a day be set aside to acknowledge and celebrate the great contributions that Scottish people have made to this country and to the world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California wishes to honor the great traditions and heritage of Scotland with a Scottish Tartan Day, which is hereby declared to be April 6, 1998, and every April 6th thereafter.

Be it further resolved, That in declaring Scottish Tartan Day, the Legislature recognizes and commemorates the many substantial contributions of the Scottish people to the world and pays tribute to the tartan, a symbol of Scottish courage in the face of adversity and loyalty to family and to friend, so that the human qualities of perseverance in a just cause and strength in their resolution that freedom is for the many, not the few, may serve as a continuing inspiration for all people today.

